

CORN

1. Is smut affected corn considered damage?

ANSWER. Smut and mold are virtually indistinguishable. As such, if smut (a fungus) penetrates the seedcoat and adheres to the "meat" of the kernel, it is considered damage. Otherwise, it is considered sound.

2. Are stained corn kernels (other than flooding or fumigant) considered damage or unknown foreign substance?

ANSWER. Stained corn kernels are not considered unknown foreign substance but will function as mold damage provided the kernel is affected by the mold and meets the VRI C-10.0 Surface Mold (Blight).

NOTE: Stained corn kernels function as unknown foreign substance if it is known that the stain is caused by a fumigant.

3. What does flood damaged corn function as?

ANSWER. Grain materially affected by flooding is considered DLQ and certified as U.S. Sample grade. This determination is based on the appearance and condition of the lot or sample as a whole. Identifiable lots grading DLQ are reported to the Food and Drug Administration in accordance with Program Directive 906.2, dated February 26, 1993. Kernels materially damaged by flooding are considered damaged kernels. At this time there is not an VRI, but areas which were affected were sent an exhibit to use as an interpretive line.

4. What does the variety of corn produced by Pioneer which is smoky in color function as?

ANSWER. Corn of other colors.

5. Can applicants still request the breakdown for BCFM?

ANSWER. Yes. Mandatory requirements for individual components for BC and FM is no longer required as of December 30, 1992. However, applicants may request separate certification of these components for domestic and export shipments. Unless requested by the applicant, report and certify BCFM as a single factor on the work records and inspection certificates.

6. What does the variety of corn which is blue in color function as?

ANSWER. Not Standardized Grain (NSG). This variety is predominantly used in making blue corn chips and is typically a "flour" type corn which is not covered by the U.S. Corn Standards. The standards only pertain to shelled dent/flint corn. As NSG, blue corn kernels found in flint or dent corn function as foreign material.

7. Can an inspector scrape the seedcoat on heat damaged suspected kernels if the seedcoat is bleached and/or blistered and it is hard to determine the color of the band extending out of the germ and around the sides and back of the kernel?

ANSWER. Yes.

8. If corn has been discolored as a result of artificial drying, but the affected kernels do not meet the requirements of VRI C-5.0, "Drier-heat," can they be taken as heat damage if they meet VRI C-5.1 or C-5.2, Heat Damage White and Yellow corn, respectively?

ANSWER. No. It only functions as damage.

9. If a sample offered for inspection contains 100% Indian corn, should it be graded as Mixed corn since it functions as corn of other colors?

ANSWER. No. If a sample of corn contains more than 50% of Indian corn, it is graded as "Not Standardized Grain." If the Indian corn is 50% or less, it functions as corn of other colors.

10. How should a sample of corn containing 80% Yellow corn, 11% White corn, and 9% Indian corn be certified in the remarks section of the certificate?

ANSWER. When certifying Mixed corn, record the percentage of the mixture, in order of predominance, to the nearest tenth percent. In this instance, the mixture would certify as Yellow corn 80%, White corn 11%, and corn of other colors 9%.

11. Is corn that is fire burnt on the cob considered damage if only the crown is discolored?

ANSWER. Yes. Currently, there is not an visual reference image, but it is considered damaged if:

- 1. The complete crown is burnt (black); or*
- 2. The crown is burnt, cracked open, and the starch shows a creamy discoloration.*

12. What does Kernel Red Streak function as?

ANSWER. Corn of Other Colors, provided it meets the VRI requirements of O.F.-7.5 in Yellow corn and Mixed corn and O.F.-7.7 in White corn. A toxin secreted by the wheat curl mite is responsible for the development of the reddish to pink/purple streaks on the kernel pericarp. Kernel Red Streak is a cosmetic blemish and has no reported effect on the feeding value of affected corn. It occurs in Yellow and White Corn, with major differences occurring among hybrids in the amount and intensity of red streaking.

(Updated 3/23/05)